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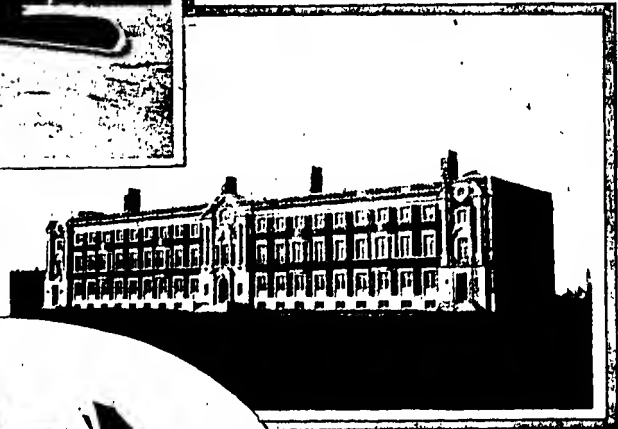
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*The*  
**EDMONTON**  
**DISTRICT**  
CENTRAL ALBERTA



*A Good Country to Farm In.*  
*A Good Country to Live In*



Government House  
 Macdonald Hotel  
 Post Office  
 Parliament Building  
 Arts Building, University of Alberta  
 Court House  
 Edmonton, Alberta

# THE EDMONTON DISTRICT

IN  
CENTRAL ALBERTA

Canada's  
Richest  
Mixed Farming  
Country



With the Compliments of  
The Edmonton Board of Trade

Issued from the Office of the  
Secretary, Edmonton, Alberta

DAIRYING  
CATTLE  
HOGS  
HORSES  
SHEEP  
POULTRY  
WHEAT  
OATS  
BARLEY  
RYE  
HAY  
ROOTS  
POTATOES  
VEGETABLES

The Board of Trade is not in the land business, and has nothing to sell; its purpose in issuing this pamphlet is to provide accurate information that prospective settlers may know the advantages of Central Alberta, and yet not be disappointed on arrival by reason of having expected too much

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Where Farmers are Prosperous  
Some Farm Homes in the Edmonton District

# The Edmonton District

## CENTRAL ALBERTA

### THE GARDEN OF CANADA'S RICHEST PROVINCE

**C**ENTRAL Alberta is a good country to farm in; a good place to do business in; and a mighty pleasant place to live in. It is an attractive, pleasant, home-like country; a country that newcomers at once take to and to which they become quickly attached. The women like it; the children like it.

Home-like  
Country

#### Geography

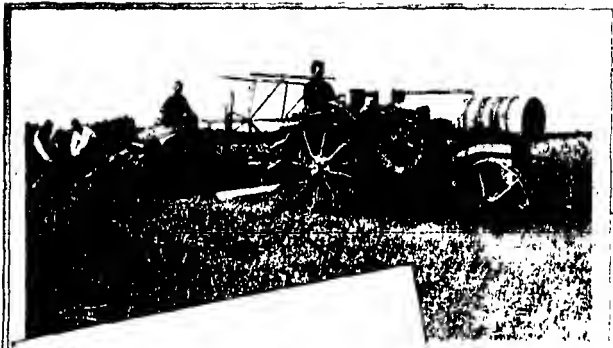
Though referred to as Central Alberta, the district lies almost entirely in the southern half of the Province, a line dividing the province equally passing just south of the town of Athabasca, and about 90 miles to the north of Edmonton. Edmonton, the capital city of Alberta, and the commercial metropolis of Central and Northern Alberta, lies in latitude  $53\frac{1}{2}$  degrees; that is to say, about the same as the cities of Dublin in Ireland; Sheffield and Manchester in England; the northern part of Holland; and Hamburg in Germany. Edmonton is 800 miles west and somewhat north of Winnipeg, Manitoba, and is 312 miles north of the international boundary. It is 774 miles east and north from Vancouver, B.C. To afford an idea of the extent of Central Alberta, it may be said that Red Deer on the Canadian Pacific Railway lies 100 miles to the south of Edmonton; Vermilion on the Canadian Northern and Wainwright on the Grand Trunk Pacific each 130 miles to the east; Athabasca on the C.N.R. branch is 95 miles north; and Edson on the G.T.P. is 130 miles west.

Latitude

#### Characteristics

In this great area of some 50,000 square miles, approximately equal in area to such states as Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan or New York, and about the size of England,

Area



Where Crops Never Fail—In the Edmonton District, 1917

there is of course, considerable local variation as to soil, conformation and appearance of the country. But speaking in a general way, the country is gently undulating, a succession of ridges alternating with slight depressions, and is freely interspersed with creeks, streams, ponds and lakes; and there is everywhere sufficient timber to give the landscape a pleasing appearance. All uncultivated land is covered with a rich, rank growth of long grass, wild peavine, vetch and a wonderful wealth of wild flowers. The soil usually consists of a rich, black, vegetable loam, varying from 12 to 30 inches or more in depth. In places this changes to a somewhat sandy loam, still nearly black; in other places to a lighter chocolate-colored loam; and occasional areas occur of light sandy soil of comparatively low fertility, but which would be considered pretty fair land in most countries. Such areas are of limited extent, however, and the prevailing character of the soil is deep, black loam of great fertility.

"The blackest and richest soil I ever saw" is the way a staff correspondent of a big eastern paper a few years ago described the land to the north, south, east and west of Edmonton.

The subsoil is usually clay or sandy clay; but this also is subject to some local variation.

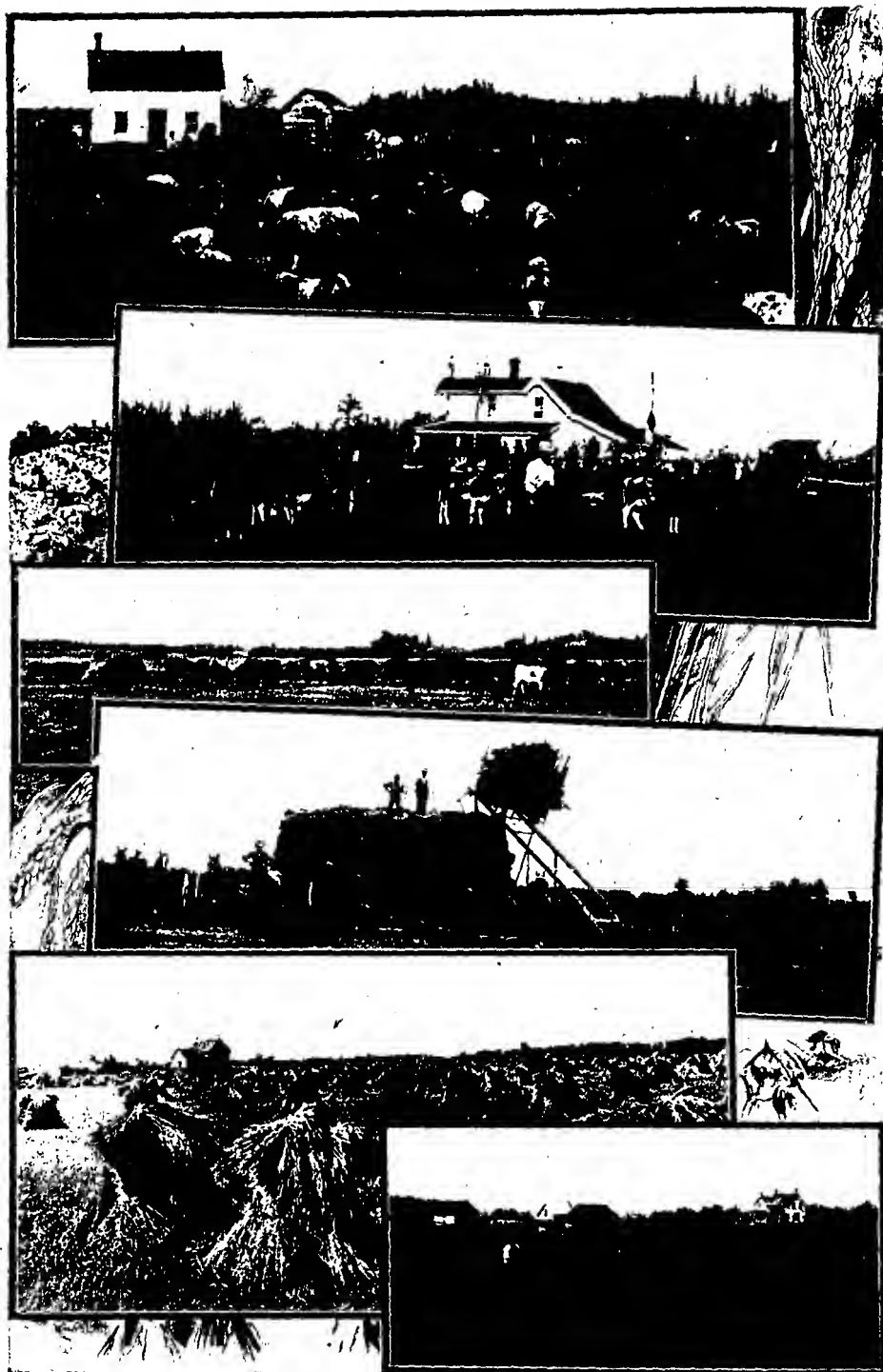
### Altitude

The altitude of Central Alberta varies from about 2,000 to 2,500 feet above sea level. At Edmonton the river level is 2,009 feet, while at the post office it is 2,185; Camrose is 2,431, Vegreville 2,082. Morinville 2,293, and Athabasca at river level 1,690.

### Climate

The summer climatic conditions in Central Alberta are ideal for rapid growth of vegetation, and a strong, heavy growth, whether of the various grain crops, roots, garden truck, fodder crops, or cultivated or wild pasture may be looked for with certainty any and every season. Similarly, damage from too much rain is unknown. While the annual rainfall is comparatively light, averaging only 21 inches for the six years ending 1916, it is subject to very little variation, and may be depended upon with certainty. A very important factor is that the precipitation for the year nearly all comes during the growing season when it is most needed. When it is further considered that the clay subsoil is retentive of moisture, and there is a total absence of hot parching winds, it will be readily understood why this comparatively light rainfall combined with the wonderful richness of soil produces such luxuriant vegetation.





The Edmonton District: A Great Mixed Farming Country

The greatest variation in precipitation during the six year period mentioned above was between the years 1914 and 1915, as shown by the records of the Dominion Meteorological station at Edmonton, and may therefore be taken to represent the extremes. Note the large proportion of the total precipitation which fell during the growing months—May, June, July and August—and how closely the figures for these months agree in the two years of the period showing the widest variation.

Precipitation at Edmonton—	May, June, July and August.	Other Eight Months.	Total for Year.	Rain When Needed
1914 .....	16.10	9.19	25.29 inches	
1915 .....	14.24	4.40	18.64 inches	

Extreme heat is practically unknown in Central Alberta. During what is known as hot weather at Edmonton, the thermometer seldom registers above 80 degrees in the shade, and a record of 85 is extremely rare. With the absence of humidity these temperatures cause no distress, and prostrations from heat are unknown. Even during periods of greatest heat, the nights are always cool. Hot scorching winds are unknown; and nothing in the nature of cyclones ever visits Central Alberta.

Central Alberta is the most favored section of the prairie west so far as winter climate is concerned. It is doubtful if anywhere east of the Rocky Mountains, except where it is much too hot in summer, can there be found a more desirable winter climate than at Edmonton. The snowfall is light, being considerably less than in any other part of the Dominion, except a portion of the Pacific Coast. Generally speaking, the snow that comes at the beginning of winter remains until spring; but the depth of snow rarely reaches twelve inches, and frequently is only about eight inches, or barely enough for sleighing. There are no serious storms and no blizzards. During about twenty-five years that the Calgary and Edmonton Railway has been in operation, the train service has never been stopped, or even delayed, by snow in Central Alberta; and it is believed that a snow-plow has never been run into Edmonton by any railroad unless for repairs. During the nine years that the Edmonton electric street railway has been in operation, the service has never been stopped by snow.

Low temperatures are registered; but extreme registers are only of very occasional occurrence and usually last only for brief periods. Such records are no indication as to the desirability or otherwise of

the climate, as account must be taken of the delightful, bright, dry, calm atmosphere which accompanies low temperatures and the usual

absence of storms. On a typical cold winter day at Edmonton, with the thermometer close to zero, one can not only walk or drive without discomfort, but with keen enjoyment. Thermometer records, without accurate knowledge of attendant conditions, are very misleading as a guide to climate. The average winter



temperature, as recorded by the Government Meteorological station at Edmonton, is practically the same as that registered in Southern Minnesota, as shown by official reports, and higher than that of Duluth. The Central Alberta winters, however, owing to the bright, dry atmosphere and the absence of storms are much more desirable than in those localities. They are also shorter.

**Winter  
Tempera-  
ture**

**Length of  
Seasons**

The ground ~~usually freezes~~ so as to stop plowing some time in November; but there is not usually weather that could be called severe until towards Christmas. The ground remains frozen until spring; and seeding operations may start anywhere from the middle of March to the latter part of April. Good grass may be looked for early in May.

**Conditions  
Favorable**

Owing to the favorable conditions already referred to, combining great fertility of soil, ample rainfall, plenty of heat and the great length of the days—the sun shines for 18 hours a day at midsummer—there occurs a rapidity of growth of all vegetation which can only be realized by those who have seen it. These conditions are eminently favorable to practically all forms of husbandry, whether in the production of grain, hay, roots, gardening, dairy farming or the raising of live stock.

## Crops

**Crops**

All ordinary crops, such as are usually grown anywhere in the eastern provinces of Canada, or in the more northerly or central western states, with the exception of tree fruits and corn, may be grown in Central Alberta; and generally with better results, greater yields being obtained with less labor, and with a greater degree of certainty. It is a very difficult matter to give enquirers exact information as to what yields of various grains may be expected, as this depends to a very great extent upon the farmer himself, and the

**Yields**

thoroughness with which he cultivates. In a general way it may be safely said that in Central Alberta, larger yields may be expected than in any other portion of this continent with the expenditure of the same amount of labor.



Average Yields

The statistics compiled by the Department of Agriculture for Alberta show that the average yields over a large area surrounding Edmonton for the last four years were as follows: Wheat, 24.61 bushels to the acre; oats, 39.94 bushels; barley 28.3 bushels. But it must be remembered that the Government figures cover every acre planted, whether well or badly farmed; and that in a new country farming is often done with more haste than care. A truer indication of the capabilities of the district would therefore be a statement as to crop results obtained by a number of the better farmers only, during this period. This is clearly demonstrated by the fact that it is a common thing to see a good farmer with a field yielding 40 or 50 bushels of wheat to the acre, or 80 to 100 bushels of oats, or 50 bushels of barley; while immediately alongside, on exactly similar land, but not so well farmed, is a field with only half these yields, thus bringing down the average which is consequently misleading as to what the country will do.

Big Yields

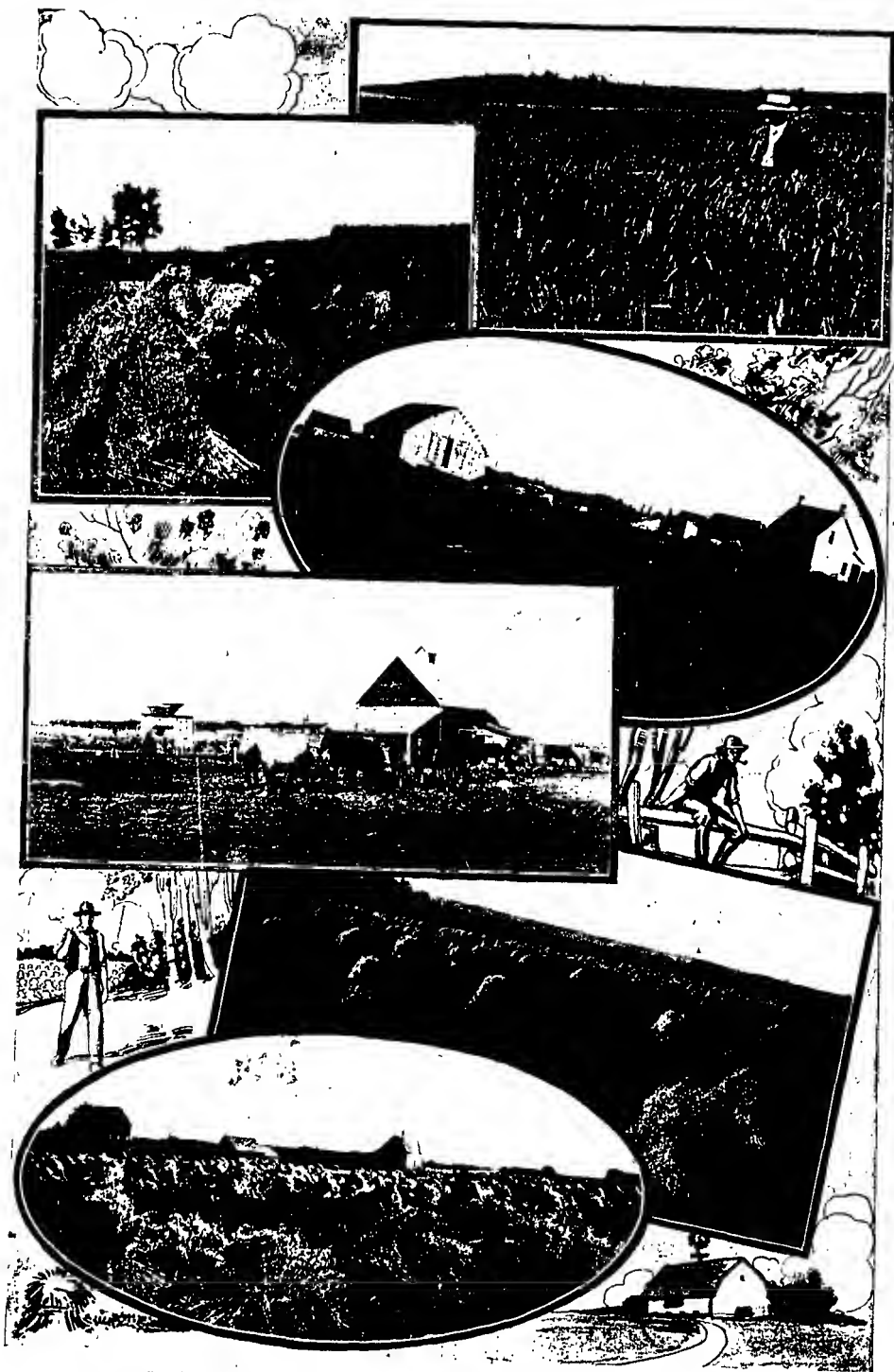


The district has been very successful in the production of hard wheat of high milling value principally the spring varieties. While in the earlier years Red Fyfe was chiefly grown, Marquis is now coming largely into favor, and some wonderful results have been obtained with this variety. It has also been demonstrated that conditions are favorable to the production of winter

Hard Wheat

wheat, and considerable success has been attained with the hard variety known as Alberta Red, but owing to the success which has attended the introduction of Marquis, winter wheat is not much grown. It is considered that nowhere on the continent are conditions more favorable for the production of winter crops, snow usually coming soon after the ground freezes and remaining on the ground until spring. Once the ground freezes, it remains frozen. The chances of winter killing are therefore minimized.

Winter Crops



In Canada's Richest Mixed Farming District—Central Alberta

Enquirers sometimes ask if Central Alberta is not too far North to grow wheat. The answer is that the wheat which took the Gold Medal at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, 1876, was grown in the extreme north of Alberta, in latitude 59°, or 5½ degrees north of Edmonton; and the wheat that took the highest award at the Columbian Exposition in 1893 was grown nearly 400 miles north of Edmonton. The wheat production in Alberta has increased from 783 thousand bushels in 1900 to 7 million bushels in 1908, and more than 42 million bushels in 1916.

It is generally admitted that Central Alberta produces the highest grade of oats that are grown on the American continent, and gets the biggest yields. Oats as commonly sent to market by Central Alberta farmers will be found to weigh anywhere from 38 to 44 lbs. to the measured bushel; and oats testing 46 to 48 pounds to the bushel are quite frequently grown, and samples testing 50 pounds or over are occasionally produced.



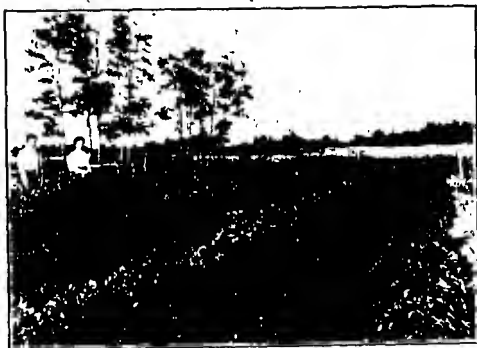
It must be remembered that the returns made to the Government by operators of threshers, from which crop statistics are compiled, are given in measured bushels only. These figures should be increased by at least 20 per cent. to get the yield by weight. The average yield of oats was therefore actually about 48 bushels instead of the figure shown.

Yields of 80, 90, 100 bushels or over to the acre are considered nothing out of the common.

The oats which won the highest award, known as the Grand Prize, at the World's Exposition at Paris, were grown on a farm eight miles out of Edmonton, by the late Mr. Thomas Daly.

Besides big yields of oats of wonderful quality, a very heavy yield of straw is obtained. It is a peculiarity of the ripening of oats in Alberta that the grain matures before the straw; and when cut in the stage to produce the best possible sample of grain, the straw is still comparatively green. This makes feed of very great value for live stock and costs nothing.

Barley is a uniformly successful crop in Central Alberta, and is usually exceptionally plump and heavy, considerably exceeding the standard weight per bushel. This is raised almost entirely for hog feed. It may be pointed out that while corn is not yet raised commercially in Alberta, hog-raisers do not feel the need of this



Farm Garden near Edmonton.

crop. Owing to our cheap land, labor rather than land is the governing factor in farming operations. The amount of labor required to produce an acre of corn in the United States will produce several acres of magnificent barley in Central Alberta. Hogs finished on this barley will produce bacon and hams much superior to that from corn-fed hogs. See reference to hog-raising further on.

#### Peas

Peas are wonderfully prolific and successful as a garden crop. While farmers generally have not yet felt the need of peas as a field crop owing to the abundance of cheaply raised feed, it has been amply demonstrated that conditions of soil and climate are eminently favorable to the successful production of peas as a field crop.

#### Rye

Rye is not raised extensively, but does exceedingly well, particularly the winter variety.

#### Beans

Beans are extraordinarily successful as a garden crop. So far as the writer is aware, they have never been tried as a field crop.

#### Roots

Ordinary root crops have proved exceptionally and uniformly successful. The Mangel-Wurzel, sugar-mangel and rutabaga, owing to the abundance of other forms of cheaply raised feed, are not much grown by the ordinary farmer. Some of the dairy farmers, however, are growing these roots extensively, and obtaining big yields with comparatively little expense. These crops will be more extensively grown when the need is felt.



In an Edmonton Farmer's Garden.





Potatoes are an exceptionally safe crop in Central Alberta and **Potatoes** failure of this crop has never been known. With reasonable care in the way of cultivation, a yield of anywhere from 300 to 500 bushels to the acre may be safely counted on. They grow to large size, and are of fine, clean, smooth appearance, and of good boiling qualities. The crop shown in the accompanying illustration was **How is this?** part of a field close to Edmonton reported by the owner to have yielded 1,486 bushels from a measured two acres.

### Gardening

It is probable that Central Alberta will produce better vegetables and more to the acre, grown under natural conditions, than any other section of the Continent. Nowhere, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, can be seen such cabbages, cauliflowers, beets, carrots, peas, beans, parsnips, celery, etc., as are commonly to be seen growing in the gardens of many sections of the district, receiving comparatively little attention and without any particular effort to assist nature in the way of artificial watering or fertilizing. The marvellously fertile soil, with the ample rainfall and moderate warmth without scorching heat, accomplish more than all the arts known to the eastern market gardener.







In Central Alberta

It has been amply demonstrated that all small fruits do exceptionally well in Central Alberta. Raspberries, strawberries, black and red currants, and gooseberries, grow wild in the greatest profusion throughout the district. These fruits have proved a great success under cultivation. The rich soil, adequate moisture, and absence of extreme heat or parching winds are particularly favorable to the production of great yields of fruit of wonderfully fine size, appearance and flavor.



Kale as Grown at Edmonton.

be very successful and profitable and is generally grown throughout the district. Taking one season with another, it is doubtful if any part of Canada is more successful with this grass than is Central Alberta. Not only is there a certainty of a fair yield of hay any and every season; but there is a heavy after-growth which makes magnificent pasture, rich and green, almost until the approach of winter. The pastures in Central Alberta do not burn up in August, as is so frequently the case in the east and south.

Brome grass and rye grass have been found to yield abundantly and have proved very satisfactory, both for hay and pasture. As the coun-



One-Twelfth of a Bushel

Notwithstanding the success attending the culture of small fruits by those who have tried it, very little attention is being given to the industry, our farmers being engaged with bigger things, and nearly all the fruit used in Alberta is shipped in from the neighboring province of British Columbia, or from the Pacific states.

### Fodder Crops

Timothy has been found to



As sent to Market from a Farm near Wabamun.



try becomes more closely settled, these grasses will undoubtedly be more largely grown.

**Clover**

The clovers have as yet been grown only in a small way as farmers have not yet felt that they are a necessity. Red Clover has been found to do well, producing a fine stand. Alsike has spread from small experimental patches, and may now be seen luxuriantly growing wild in many parts of the district. The most luxuriant growth of white clover is seen along the roadside and on vacant land everywhere.

**Alfalfa**

Alfalfa is not yet grown extensively; but a number of farmers have grown it in a small way and have demonstrated beyond doubt that conditions in Central Alberta, are eminently suited to this crop. As the value of alfalfa comes to be better understood, and as more intensive methods of farming become necessary with the development of the country and consequent increase in land values, the acre-



age under this crop will no doubt increase rapidly.

The little stack of alfalfa shown herewith was the first cutting from an experimental patch of one acre on the farm of Major John Emslie, Belvedere, 60 miles northwest of Edmonton. This was grown without inoculation of the land.

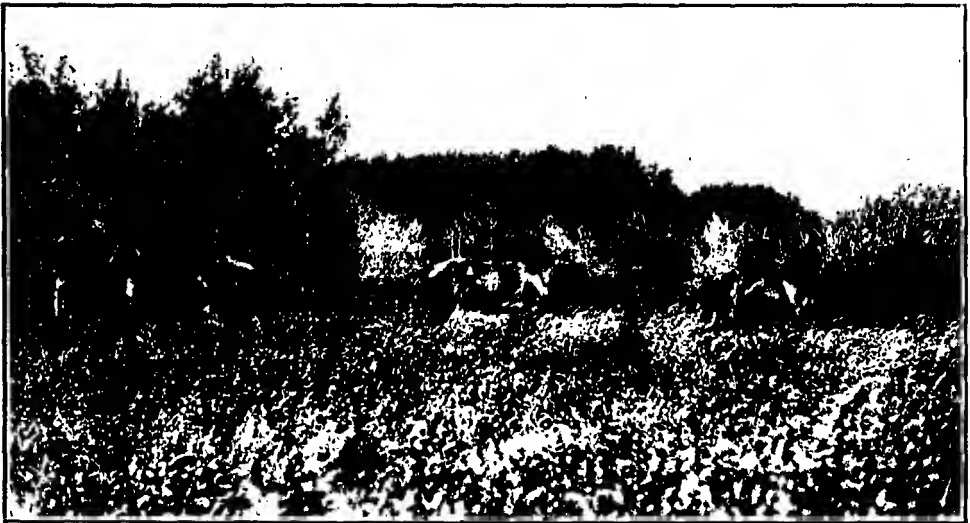
Wild hay is plentiful in many portions of the district, particularly in the newer sections; but some of the cultivated grasses are preferable in the more closely settled districts.



## Mixed Farming

While Central Alberta can and does produce splendid crops of wheat, the conditions are peculiarly favorable to mixed farming, and it is its advantages in this direction that render the country around Edmonton so desirable for farming operations. Where conditions are so favorable for growing grain, hay, roots and vegetables, for the production of fodder crops, and for the cheap handling of cattle, hogs, sheep and horses, all on the same farm, better results can be obtained from combined operations, utilizing feed otherwise wasted, and under which the quality of the land is maintained or improved, rather than from exclusive wheat growing, under which the land inevitably deteriorates, and the straw is wasted.

**Mixed  
Farming**



**Wild Pasture in the Edmonton District**

Nowhere can better cattle be raised, or at less cost. The soil and climate are especially suited to the production of cultivated grasses and fodder crops; and the enormous stacks of straw left on the fields after threshing provide fodder of considerable value for large numbers of cattle. Nothing strikes the stranger visiting Central Alberta more than the wonderful variety and luxuriance of the native grasses, wild peavine and vetch, valuable alike for pasturage or hay.

**Native  
Grasses**

"I didn't know there was as much feed in the world as I see going to waste on your vacant land."

That is the way a cattle man from one of the Western States expressed himself after a few weeks spent in the country about Edmonton in the fall of 1916. Making some allowance for exag-

geration induced by enthusiasm, this statement conveys a reasonably accurate impression as to the conditions as they look to the farmer, the cattleman, or the dairyman. To quote from a Government publication:

**Ninety-six  
Grasses**

"Roughly classified, there are three divisions of the natural fodder vegetation, namely: the true grasses; the sedges and rushes; and the legumes (peas and vetches). Ninety-six varieties of grasses have been identified in Alberta, of which forty-six varieties make excellent hay. Of the sedges and rushes there are at least ninety-four different types, many of which make good hay; and all make good pasture during the early spring and summer."



**Ideal Cattle  
Country**

**Winter  
in Open**

**Found  
Money**

The rich summer pasture, absence of extreme heat and comparative freedom from flies and other pests, in conjunction with favorable winter climatic conditions and a plentiful supply of cheap feed, combine to make Central Alberta an ideal cattle country. The winters are shorter than in the other Western Provinces, or such States as the Dakotas or Minnesota; and owing to the characteristic absence of humidity and freedom from storms, cattle may live in the open the whole winter. Cattle wintering in the open are remarkably free from disease of any kind; and pulmonary troubles, which cause devastation amongst stock inhabiting more humid regions, are unknown. Growing cattle, and cows not milking, are usually allowed to run out during the winter about the stacks of straw left on the fields, which form their principal ration. They find all the shelter necessary in the clumps of timber about the farm or in open sheds. In this way cattle can be wintered almost without cost; and farmers generally look on the price they get for steers raised in this way as practically all profit.

Mr. Martin Rummalls, manager of the Rosedale Ranch, forty miles south of Edmonton, writes: "We wintered 276 head of cattle during the winter of 1916-17, without the loss of a single animal, all coming through in fine shape. Only six milking cows and some calves were stabled."

Andrew Rolland, of Viking, Alberta, 70 miles east of Edmonton, left Sweden some twenty-five years ago for Minnesota, afterwards going to Wisconsin, thence to North Dakota, where he secured a farm, which he worked for seven years. Mr. Rolland writes:

"The men I left in Dakota who were fairly well off then have not advanced any. Had they come here when I did, they would be very wealthy now. This is the best place I have found for mixed farming. The climate is good, and success is sure to the man who will work, and use both his head and his hands."

**Should  
Have Come  
to Alberta**

### **Dairy Farming**

It is doubtful if there is any portion of this Continent where dairy farming is more profitable than in Central Alberta. As has been shown, the season of pasture is long and the pasture is rich. There is no extreme heat; and no hot, dry spell in August to spoil the pasture, and necessitate feeding. The cultivated pastures which come in before the wild pasture begins to fail, keep rank and green well through October. The season during which cows must be housed and fed is shorter than in most other parts of Canada. Winter feed is cheaply raised.

Green oats is the crop most largely grown for dairy feed at present, as this is found to make very satisfactory feed and can be raised at a minimum expense. As oats commonly grow from four to six feet high in Central Alberta, and proportionately thick on the ground, enormous yields are obtained, and can be relied upon any and every season, giving excellent feed at very low cost and involving little labor.

Dairy farmers in Central Alberta are beginning the erection of silos. While this is as yet by no means general, a few are making

**Highly  
Profitable**

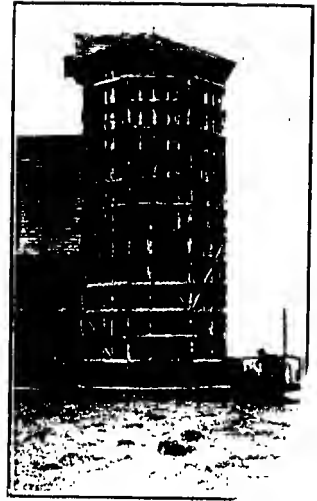


**An Alberta Bred Cow Holding a British Empire  
Record for Butter Production**

### Silos

the experiment, with prospects that it will prove satisfactory. Green oats will be used principally for ensilage, with possibly some alfalfa, alsike or fodder corn.

The silo shown in the accompanying illustration is on the farm of Mr. N. D. Mills, of Clover Bar, P.O., about nine miles east of Edmonton. Mr. Mills uses corn for ensilage, and has been very successful with this crop each of the three years since he built the silo.



### High Price for Milk

Notwithstanding the fact that milk and cream can, perhaps, be produced more cheaply in Central Alberta than elsewhere, the prices received by farmers for these products are higher than is obtained by producers in the dairy districts of the east or central west, on land valued at from five to ten times the price of Central Alberta farms. Farmers within easy hauling distance of railway stations have a ready market with big dairy enterprises in the City of Edmonton, one of which has the largest butter output of any creamery in Canada. For several years past the lowest price paid the farmers for milk at their nearest station has been \$1.60 per hundred pounds, while the winter price has been around \$2.40. Since 1912 the price has not been lower than \$1.75, and the lowest price paid in 1917 was \$2.10. The price for sweet cream has ranged from 28 cents to 40 cents per pound, butter fat basis.

### Co-Operative Creameries



Dairy Barn at Stony Plain, near Edmonton

In dairy districts not convenient to railway service, there are local creameries. Some of these have been established with the assistance of the Provincial Government, which has pursued a very progressive policy in the way of encouraging and assisting the establishment of co-operative creameries wherever there is a sufficient number of cows to warrant it. The Department of Agriculture has also established a very effective organization for the marketing of the output of these or other creameries wishing to avail themselves of its services, with the result that the

creameries are always sure of very satisfactory prices for their output, the patrons supplying cream receiving the full benefit of the high prices obtained, less a certain fixed sum for the cost of manufacture. Owing to the exceedingly satisfactory results attending dairying operations the output of butter from Alberta creameries increased from 3,050,000 pounds in 1912 to 7,376,871 pounds in 1915. About 60 per cent. of this output was from creameries in Central Alberta.

**Big  
Increase**



**House and Barn of Mr. Leon Abbott**

Mr. Leon Abbott, Clover Bar, says:—

"I am milking sixteen cows, which brought me \$135.50 each in 1915 and \$133 each in 1916, in addition to a large part of the feed for my hogs. I find these operations very profitable, as cows can be handled here at a minimum of expense. The pasture is rich and nutritious, feed is easily and cheaply raised, and climatic conditions are favorable.

**Very  
Profitable**

"I am using Shorthorn grades. These milk well, and the steer calves are worth raising. I look on the \$75 or \$80 apiece I get for my steers as practically found money, as they cost little or nothing to raise, eating principally feed which would otherwise be wasted. To my notion feed and pasture is too plentiful in this country to keep cows that



**Some Central Alberta Dairy Stock**



only produce milk. Steers can be raised here cheaper than any country I know."

Mr. W. R. Mills, of the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of 3-53-23 W. of 4th Meridian, using Clover Bar P.O., says:

**Best Dairy  
Country**

**Cheap Feed**

**Good  
Markets**

**Good  
Prices**

"This is the best dairy country I know. My 30 cows bring me in a cheque from the creamery every month running anywhere from \$300 to \$600 according to the season, the total for the year running close to the five thousand mark, or about \$160 per cow. I produce this milk at small cost, as the pasture is always good throughout a long season and I never have to feed my cows until late in the fall. My winter feed is very cheaply raised, as I am always sure of a big crop of green oats. Since I built the silo three years ago, I have raised a few acres of fodder corn each year, which I have found very satisfactory, and which I have had attain a height of over ten feet.

"There is no trouble about markets. I believe that Edmonton is the best market town in Canada. Practically anything that a farmer ever has to sell, whether milk, cream, horses, cattle, hogs, hay, potatoes or poultry products, is sure of a ready market at a good price."

Mr. Mills is milking grade Holsteins. He uses a motor truck to send his milk and other produce to market.



Six Weeks Pigs on the Farm of Captain A. R. Gillies, Clover Bar

### Hog Raising

**Doesn't  
Need Corn**

In a country with such great advantages for dairying, hog raising naturally comes in for a good deal of attention. The farmer from the corn states always wants to know if we can grow corn, which he considers essential to hog raising. Our summers, though quite as long as in several of the states where corn is raised, are not hot enough to ripen corn, and so far this crop has been grown only for fodder. As has been stated, there is no extreme heat and the nights are always cool.



The Central Alberta farmer, however, does not worry about the lack of corn. He knows that the cool summers are what makes the heavy steers and the big milk yield; and he has possibly a better feed for his hogs. Barley is an exceedingly satisfactory crop; the yield is big, and the grain is remarkably plump and heavy. The labor required to make an acre of corn in the States will in Central Alberta produce several acres of magnificent barley. Hogs fed on this barley, with dairy waste, and possibly some roots, can be turned into bacon and hams much superior to the corn-fed product, and can be raised at least as cheaply and matured as early.

**Uses  
Barley**

**Makes  
Best Bacon**



**Farm of Mr. William Weir, Millet**

Mr. Wm. Weir, of Millet, Alberta, writes:—

"As to raising hogs, I generally raise two litters from each brood sow each year, and get them on the market at six to eight months old at from 180 to 200 pounds."

**Two Litters  
a Year**



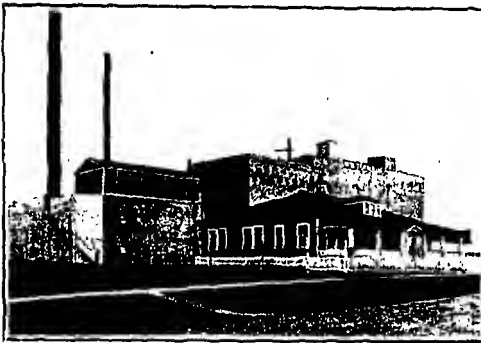
Farm Yard of Angus McDonnell

Mr. Angus McDonnell, of Ray Settlement, Rural Route No. 1, St. Albert P.O., writes that he has turned off a bunch of hogs fed on skim milk and a little mill offal and finished on barley, to make choice bacon hogs weighing in at an average of 186 pounds, at 5 months and 10 days. Mr. McDonnell prefers, however, to keep his hogs longer. His last carload—sold in May, 1917—were from 10 to 11 months old, averaging 335 pounds; and sold at \$15.10 per hundred.

Highly  
Profitable

To quote again from Mr. Leon Abbott:—

"I find hog raising highly profitable. In addition to skim milk or butter milk I feed principally oat chop. With the enormous oat crops we get here this can be very cheaply produced; and I have the straw for my steers. I never keep my hogs longer than six months and always get them to average well over 200 pounds at this age. I have had individuals go as high as 260 at this age. In 1916 I took a little extra care with one litter of nine hogs. I sold these at just



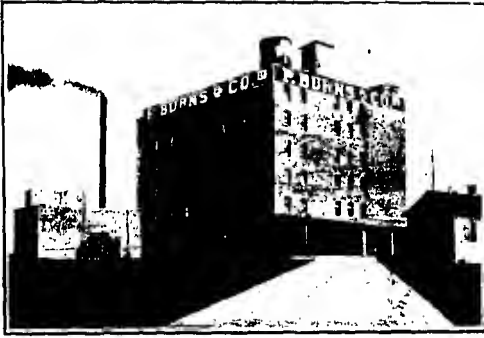
225 Pounds  
at 5 Months

over five months, and they averaged 225½ pounds. Two-thirds of the price obtained for this bunch was clear profit."

Mr. A. B. Campbell, of Edmonton, says that on his farm near Fort Saskatchewan, he turns off his hogs at six months old, averaging slightly over 200 pounds.

Good  
Markets

Central Alberta farmers are always assured of a good market for their hogs. Edmonton is rapidly developing as one of the best live stock markets in Canada. At Edmonton there are several great



meat packing enter- **Packing  
Plants**

prizes, two of which are shown in the accompanying illustrations. One of these is the largest and best equipped in the Dominion. There is also at Edmonton a public stockyard where independent buyers are in competition with the

packing plants and a keen competitive market is always assured. The rapid and phenomenal development of these industries about Edmonton is the best possible testimony as to the great resources of Central Alberta as a mixed farming country.

**Competitive  
Market**



**Sows on Farm of Captain A. R. Gillies.**

### **Horse Raising**

In a country of unexcelled pasture, producing the finest oats in the world, and with climatic conditions which permit horses to run out the year round, horse raising naturally occupies an important place. Visitors to Central Alberta invariably remark upon the unusually high quality of the horses seen at work on our farms, on

**Good  
Horses**





**Good  
Market**

the country roads, or on the streets of the towns and cities. There is at all times a good market for all classes of horses of good quality, at exceedingly profitable prices.



**Lots of Pasture in Central Alberta**

**Never  
Stabled**

me a cent outside the service fee. She has never been stabled. All my horses run out the year round. The snowfall is light, and the horses paw away the snow and find plenty of grass for themselves; while the cattle often go along with them and enjoy the fruits of their labor."

### **Sheep**

**Losses  
Negligible**

**No Foot-rot**

**No Stomach  
Worms**

**Beats  
Ontario**

Climatic conditions in Central Alberta are exceedingly favorable for this industry. The comparatively cool summers, with bright, clear winter weather, with a total absence of rain, sleet or severe storms during the winter, afford ideal conditions, and losses are negligible. There is no foot-rot; no grubs; no stomach worms. Mr. A. B. Campbell, who keeps about six hundred sheep on his farm near Fort Saskatchewan, writes that his increase in 1917 was 117 per cent., allowing for all losses. Mr. Campbell considers the Central Alberta climate much preferable to that of Ontario for sheep.

Sheep breeders have an active organization, known as the Alberta Provincial Sheep Breeders' Association, with headquarters at Edmonton, which arranges the sale of wool on the co-operative plan for its members or others wishing to make use of its services. The 1917 clip was sold at prices ranging from 45 to 65 cents per pound for the various grades, the bulk of the clip bringing 60 cents. In 1916 the association sold at around 32 cents.



Part of Mr. A. B. Campbell's Flock

### Poultry

The latest Bulletin issued from the Poultry Branch of the Department of Agriculture for Alberta may be quoted as follows:

There is no province in the Dominion where climatic conditions are more favorable for the production of poultry than in Alberta. While the temperature drops rather low at times, it

Climate  
Favorable



does not prevent a satisfactory supply of eggs during the winter months, as will be shown later by actual records. Poultry can endure quite low temperatures when the climate is steady, much better than they can where the climatic changes are accompanied by quickly alternating wet and dry conditions. Rapidly changing conditions mean colds, roup, etc., with their attendant losses. In this respect Alberta with its steady climatic conditions, with a large amount of dry weather, with its long hours of sunshine (and practically total absence of dampness in the fall and winter)

Winter  
Eggs

**Ideal  
Conditions**

presents ideal conditions for raising poultry of all kinds. There is practically no rainfall until the hatching season is well advanced, which makes conditions highly favorable for the rearing of young chicks, ducks, geese and turkeys—particularly the latter.

The absence of disease, resulting from these favorable climatic conditions, is an item which has not been appreciated as it should be



**Winter  
Laying  
Tests**

Very satisfactory egg production may be obtained even during the coldest weather, when the market is at its highest. The government bulletin quoted above indicates that careful trap records made at the Government Poultry Station at Edmonton gave the following results:

January, 1913, 12 birds gave 263 eggs, individual results ranging from 17 to 25.

January, 1914, 21 birds gave 399 eggs, the range being from 11 to 25 for individuals.

**Cotton  
Front  
Houses**

It is significant of the favorable climatic conditions to note that these January laying tests were conducted in the cotton front poultry house shown herewith, the front of which is practically all of cotton only, there being no glass used, and no artificial heat.

The market conditions for eggs and poultry are highly satisfactory to the producer. To again quote the bulletin referred to above:

**Market for  
Eggs**

Throughout the Province of Alberta, in fact all Western Canada, at all seasons of the year, there is an almost unlimited demand for poultry products. This is indicated by the enormous importations from other countries, which for Alberta alone amounted to 1,954,110 dozen in 1913, and 8,568,657 dozen in 1914. The importations from outside the Dominion for the four

western provinces were 10,562,190 dozen in 1913, and 8,294,672 **Dressed Poultry** dozen in 1914. Similar conditions prevail in regard to dressed poultry.

As the province develops the market demands will also grow, as a high percentage of the incoming population will for some time be consumers rather than producers. In all likelihood it will be a great many years before the province will produce sufficient eggs and poultry to meet its own requirements. Apart from this, there need be no fear of over-production, as there is a market demand in British Columbia and elsewhere for any surplus there may be.

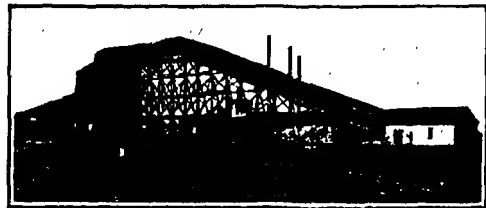
It will therefore be seen that both conditions of production and markets are highly favorable to the profitable prosecution of the poultry industry.

### **OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES**

The natural resources of Central Alberta are by no means limited to the products of the farm. The district has timber and mineral resources of great value.

#### **Coal**

**Alberta contains one-seventh of the known coal supply of the world;** and most of the Alberta supply is in the Edmonton field. In a report of the Geological Survey Branch of the Dominion Department of Mines, the Edmonton Formation is said to consist of a known area of coal-bearing lands of 10,600 square miles, with a coal content estimated at 60,000 millions of tons. There are about 36 mines in operation in Edmonton and about the district, producing annually about one million tons. This industry, however, is rapidly developing, and promises to reach much bigger figures in the near future. In the meantime, every resident of Central Alberta



**Tipple of Cardiff Collieries, near Edmonton**



**Quarrying Coal at Tofield**

is assured of ample supplies of cheap coal.

Alberta is peculiarly favored in her coal supply. This coal found about the Edmonton district is high grade lignite, very desirable for domestic use, lying near to the surface, and cheaply mined. Far-

**Unlimited Coal**

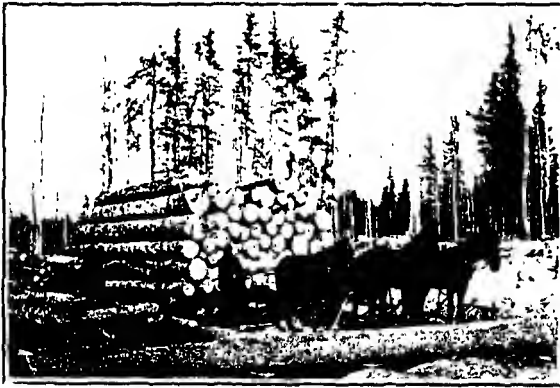


ther west, both in Southwestern Alberta and lying directly to the west of Edmonton, are both bituminous steam coal and anthracite, both of a quality which compares favorably with the product of the Pennsylvania mines.

### Timber

**Fuel  
Plentiful**

The district is liberally supplied with timber for fuel; and in all the newer settlements timber is largely used for buildings and



**Timber for Edmonton Saw Mills**

fencing. West and north of Edmonton spruce and tamarac of good milling value is found. Lumbering is carried on at Edmonton, a saw mill there cutting fifty million feet annually; and there are a number of smaller enterprises north and west of that city on various lines of railway. Portable mills supply the needs in districts remote from railways. North of the Saskatchewan River

the country may be said to be partially timbered the entire width of the province, spruce, poplar tamarac and birch occurring practically everywhere.

## GENERAL CONDITIONS

### Markets

**Good  
Markets**

The farmers of the Edmonton district are always assured of a first-class market for anything they produce. The grain trade throughout the western provinces is under very strict Government regulation and control with a view to assuring to the producer absolute fairness of treatment and full value for his product. The regulation of the trade is in the hands of a Board of Grain Commissioners appointed by the Dominion Government, and composed of men of high qualifications and absolute integrity, who command the complete confidence alike of the farmers, the railways, and the grain trade.

**Strict  
Regulation**

**Elevators**

Central Alberta is covered with elevators at which grain may be marketed. One or more is found at every station or flag station along the railway lines. Some of these are farmers' co-operative elevators, established with the assistance of the Provincial Govern-

ment; others are operated by some of the big milling companies or exporting grain companies; and still others are local in character. There is not only competition between different elevators and buyers at each point; there is also competition between different points, so that producers are always assured of a keenly competitive market. There are a number of flour mills at Edmonton and elsewhere throughout the district, which help to maintain competition for wheat; and also provide mill feeds.

Competition

Flour  
Mills

Grain prices in Central Alberta follow the fluctuations of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange, Winnipeg being the biggest wheat market on this continent. Winnipeg prices are based on delivery at Fort William or Port Arthur, at the head of the Great Lakes. The freight rate from Central Alberta points to Fort William averages about 1-1 cents per bushel on wheat and a corresponding rate on other grains, so that the export value at Central Alberta points may be readily ascertained from the current market quotations.

Grain  
Prices

A great terminal elevator has been built at Vancouver, B.C., by the Government of Canada to provide facilities for sending grain from the western portion of the prairie provinces to the markets of Europe via the Panama Canal, thus greatly reducing the comparatively costly railway haul, with the expectation of considerably increasing the price to Alberta growers. The development of a west-bound grain trade has been temporarily checked by the scarcity of ocean tonnage and resulting high rates, consequent upon war conditions. When conditions of ocean navigation are again normal, Alberta grain will have a cheaper route to its ultimate market than that from either of the other Western provinces.

Panama  
Canal

Thirteen  
Railway  
Lines

For practically all farm produce other than grain, Edmonton provides one of the best markets in Canada. As will be seen by the accompanying maps, not only do some thirteen lines of railway centre at Edmonton permitting ready facilities for assembling and distribution of produce from and to all tributary territory; but there are also six or seven great main line routes over which the surplus may reach the world's markets, either east or west.

Edmonton is a very important live stock centre. Not only are there located there three dead meat enterprises, one of which is the most important in Canada, but there are also public stockyards, on which brokers and exporters are operating. There is, therefore, not only competition between the various shippers; but also between the brokers shipping to outside markets on the one hand, and the local packing plants on the other. The Edmonton stockyards also affords a ready medium by which live stock other than meat animals may be bought or sold by the farmers of Central Alberta.

Great  
Live Stock  
Centre

Competitive  
Market



**View of Part of Edmonton Exhibition Grounds**

**Exhibition Association**

The Edmonton Exhibition Association is also an important factor in developing markets for breeding stock. This institution has, with a single exception, the best equipped fair ground in Canada, designed particularly with a view to the encouragement of the live

**Horse Show**

stock industry. Besides their main annual fixture, the Exhibition held at mid-summer, which is one of the most important live stock events in Canada, there are held at various other seasons a horse show, race meets, and stallion show and bull sales. The facilities

**Bull Sales**

afforded by the great steel and concrete live stock pavilion, one of the finest on the continent, enable these stock shows and sales to be carried out independent of weather conditions. These events not

only facilitate the sale of breeding stock, but also have great educative value, and afford convenient opportunities for those desiring to purchase.



**Stock Pavilion, Edmonton Exhibition Grounds**

the big creamery competitions in the dairy centres in Eastern

Canada. Besides supplying the local demand and the neighboring markets of Saskatchewan and British Columbia, these concerns owing to the uniformly high grade of their products, enjoy a practically unlimited demand from more distant markets, enabling them to pay producers, even in normal times, the high prices referred to on page 20.

Both the packing plants and the creamery enterprises, as well as other concerns having cold storage facilities, are large handlers of eggs, poultry and dairy butter, shipped in from surrounding territory, for which they readily find a market. There are also in Edmonton several wholesale houses handling such produce as potatoes, cabbages and other vegetables; and a market may be obtained direct from the farmer's wagon, or in carloads at any country point.



A Portion of Edmonton's Wholesale District

Similarly, Edmonton is a great distributing centre for general merchandise, and there are several large well-equipped departmental and other stores selling to the consumer, as well as numerous wholesale houses with big modern warehouses and carrying heavy stocks from which the merchants of Edmonton and country merchants in a vast area of tributary territory are supplied. Practically every line of merchandise is represented, competition is keen and Edmonton is recognized as one of the best purchasing markets in Western Canada. Most of the big agricultural implement concerns, both Canadian and American, are represented in Edmonton by branch houses; and there are agencies at every town and village throughout the country. There are also good general stores at practically all country points.

Big  
Warehouses

Competition  
Keen

Agricultural  
Implements



**Timothy is a Great Crop in Central Alberta**

**Prices of  
Produce**

It is not practicable, particularly in these times of fluctuating markets and unusual conditions, to quote either prices which may be obtained for the products of the farm or which must be paid for merchandise or live stock. In a general way, the prices are those which prevail in other similarly situated communities. As has been stated, the prices of grain are governed by the world markets, allowance being made for freight. Live stock closely follows the big markets of Eastern Canada or those of the Central Western States. Hogs have occasionally sold in Edmonton at above the Chicago market; but usually they are slightly, though not materially, lower. Beef cattle are usually slightly under the Central U.S. markets. Feeders run about the same as in the Central West, or Eastern Canada; and common breeding stock slightly higher. It must be understood, however, that these are all subject to variation with local or temporary conditions.

**Price of  
Live Stock**

**Price of  
Implements  
and  
Supplies**

Agricultural implements cost somewhat more than in Eastern Canada, to cover freight charges, and about  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. higher than in the Western States. Binder twine, barbed wire, and similar heavy goods sell at from 1 cent to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cents above eastern prices. Flour follows the local market for wheat; and sugar usually sells at about  $\frac{3}{4}$  cent per pound above the eastern price. Clothing, boots and shoes and dry goods at about eastern prices or slightly higher. Cotton goods higher than in U.S., and woollen goods cheaper.

**Government Encouragement of Agriculture**

**Government  
Assists**

A very forward policy is followed by the Department of Agriculture for Alberta for the encouragement and development of the agricultural industry. The following are some of the more important activities of the Department:



On a Central Alberta Farm

DEMONSTRATION FARMS are maintained by the Department at Athabasca, Claresholm, Medicine Hat, Olds, Sedgewick, Stony Plain and Vermilion, at each of which operations are carried on, both in agriculture and animal husbandry with a view to demonstrating just what results may be achieved under various methods of treatment, and under such conditions as are open to the ordinary farmer. Accurate records of all operations are kept, and reports are available to anyone wanting them.

**Demonstration Farms**

SCHOOLS OF AGRICULTURE are maintained at Claresholm, Olds and Vermilion. These afford instruction, both practical and theoretical, in every branch of farming; and courses in domestic science and household economy are given for girls and women. These courses are supplied entirely free of charge.

**Agricultural Schools**

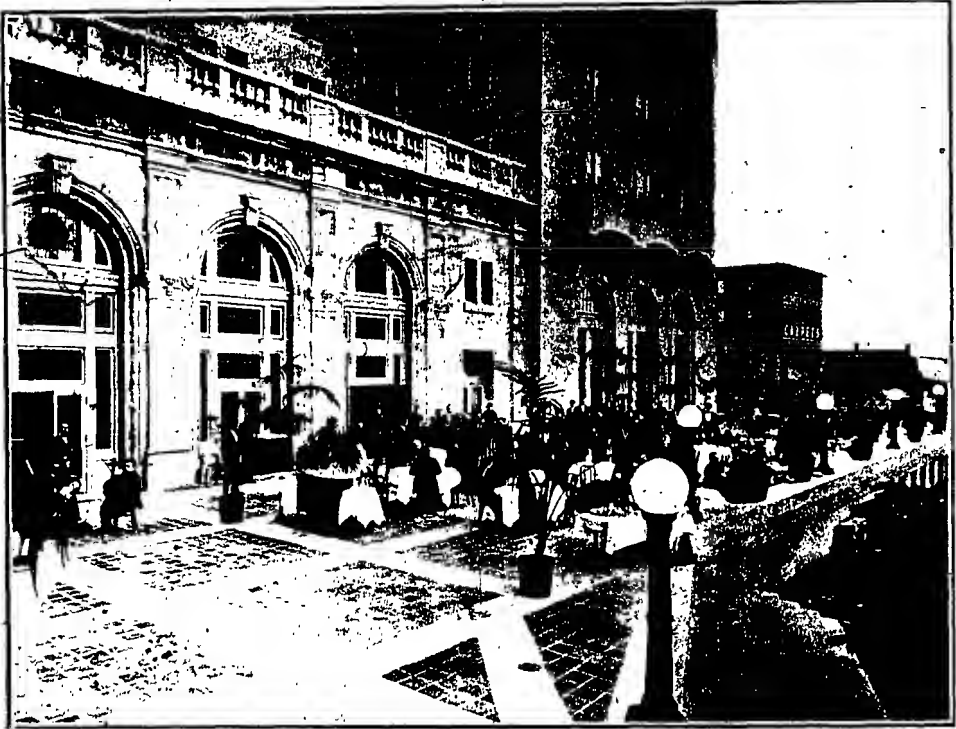
**Domestic Science**

Considerable is done also in the way of what might be called Extension Work, for the purpose of bringing educational work home to the farmers. Institutes and short course schools are carried on in various centres from time to time. A special Demonstration Train carrying very comprehensive exhibits in every branch of farming activity and accompanied by competent lecturers, is run throughout the province each season.

**Demonstration Train**

Some indication of the nature of various other activities carried on by the Provincial Department of Agriculture for the guidance and assistance of the farmer is afforded by mention of some of the heads of branches, such as the Provincial Veterinarian; Live Stock

Commissioner: Dairy Commissioner; Superintendent of Fairs and Institutes; Superintendent of Seed and Weed Branch; Superintendent of Women's Institutes; Poultry Superintendent; Brand Recorder, etc.



A Summer Evening at The Macdonald, Edmonton, one of Canada's Leading Hotels

### Social Conditions

No  
"Roughing  
it"

People  
Progressive

Those considering coming to Central Alberta should at once divest themselves of any idea that they will necessarily have to endure anything in the way of hardship or privation. In the better settled portions of the district, conditions will be found as advanced, generally speaking, as in rural districts in any but the best developed portions of the eastern provinces or states. Edmonton, though only having attained any considerable importance within the last dozen years, and still (July, 1917) having a population of less than sixty thousand, will be found to be more progressive, to have better business facilities and business buildings, better homes, schools and churches, than towns elsewhere on the continent having much greater population and many decades older.



**Alberta Beach, Lac Ste. Anne, one of Edmonton's Summering Places**

The same is relatively true of the smaller towns and villages. These are generally provided with better stores and general business equipment, and better schools and churches than are usually found in rural districts in the older portions of the continent.

Progressive ideas prevail throughout the country. Edmonton was the first town in Canada to own and operate its own electric light and power service, and telephone system; and was the first in Western Canada to build and operate a municipally-owned street railway system. Alberta was the first province in Canada to install a publicly-owned telephone system, owned and operated by the provincial government, and covering practically the entire settled portion of the province with long distance lines, as well as operating most of the local exchanges in the towns and cities. Edmonton was the first town in Canada to install the modern automatic telephone system.

**Modern  
Ideas in  
Alberta**

In all the settled portions of the district the farmers are supplied with telephone service, some four hundred farm phones being served from Edmonton alone, and having free exchange with the Edmonton system.

**Farm  
Telephones**

Rural mail delivery is afforded farmers along all main roads. Schools, churches, post offices; and fair roads are found everywhere throughout the settled portions of Central Alberta, many farmers using motor cars. The number of automobiles being bought by farmers is significant, both as to the condition of the country roads and as to the prosperity of the farmers. In 1915 the provincial authorities issued less than six thousand automobile licenses; in 1916, less than ten thousand; and up to the end of September, 1917, 19,400 had been issued. Most of the increase was for licenses issued to farmers.

**Rural Mail  
Delivery**

**Farmers  
Buy Auto-  
mobiles**





## Educational Facilities

### Rural Schools

The Provincial Government has adopted a progressive policy in regard to public free education, and has made very liberal provision for the establishment and maintenance of rural schools. Any rural community where there are in residence four persons liable to assessment, and not less than eight children of school age, may organize itself into a Public School District, to include territory not more than five miles each way. The school district is authorized to sell its debentures, payable over a long period, to cover the cost of the building and equipment. The government makes a liberal annual grant from provincial funds towards the cost of maintenance. All lands within the limits of the school district, other than government land, and in some cases certain other reservations, whether occupied or not, are permitted to be taxed to meet the balance of the current expenses and provide for maturing debentures. The schools are under the direct control and supervision of the Provincial Department of Education, and a high standard of efficiency is maintained.

### School Year Round

It is sometimes asked if climatic conditions permit children to attend rural schools during the winter. It is customary for rural schools to operate through the winter in Central Alberta, closing only for ten days for Christmas holidays. Mary's Villa school is attended by farm children only, coming considerable distances. The Departmental records show that for a period of three successive years the actual attendance at this school was 99 per cent. of the enrolment; practically every child attending every day.

### High Schools

### University of Alberta

If more advanced education is required than can be imparted at the rural schools, pupils may be sent to the high schools at some of the larger towns, where they are prepared for entrance to the University of Alberta, situated at Edmonton.

## Roads

The Provincial Department of Public Works undertakes all larger expenditures in connection with road construction, such as the building of bridges, or other heavy expenditure on main roads. The making and maintenance of roads, apart from these heavy items, is left in the hands of the residents interested. Local Improvement



Districts may be organized, and a rate levied on all taxable lands within the district, to be used for local road improvement purposes. **Roads**

### **Taxes**

With the exception of the Wild Land Tax, which is applied to land held for speculation and kept out of use, there are no taxes other than such as farmers see fit to impose on themselves for the maintenance of schools, and for local road improvement. The Wild Land Tax is at the rate of 25 cents per acre. It is not applicable to land of which 25 per cent. is under cultivation or which is used for pasture. There are no other government taxes, either federal or provincial, the Province deriving its revenue from certain subsidies from the Dominion treasury, and various fees and licenses. The tax for school purposes is limited to not more than \$16 on each quarter section of 160 acres; and for road improvement, not more than \$8 on each quarter section. **No Government Taxes** **School Tax** **Road Tax**

In incorporated towns and villages the largest measure of self-government is permitted, and they arrange matters of taxation to suit themselves, within certain limitations fixed by legislation.

### **Population**

The country is settled by people of considerable diversity of race and language, but the English-speaking people are in the great majority. While these are principally from Eastern Canada or Great Britain, a large number are former citizens of the United States. There are also a number of foreigners from the United States; that is to say, Germans, Swedes, Norwegians, etc., who have lived some years in some of the States and moved to Western Canada. **The People Principally Anglo-Saxon**

### **Law and Order**

In no portion of this continent is life and property safer than in Central Alberta, nor is there a more general observance of the law. Nothing approaching lawlessness has ever prevailed in the country, and the law has always been upheld at all cost. This has been made possible owing to the fact that public sentiment has always been solidly for strict enforcement of the laws; and the form of government **Laws Observed** **Laws Enforced**



Some Edmonton District Farm Houses



provides the means for doing this. The form of government is democratic in the extreme, the government being in the hands of the people, not only in name, but in fact.

### What Land Is Worth

The intrinsic value of Central Alberta land is of course a matter of opinion, and cannot be stated definitely. But it can be stated as a fact that, on the average, the land is richer and more fertile than any area of similar extent on the American continent, where general farming is followed. It will produce more, and produce it with less labor and with greater certainty. More grain can be raised to the acre; horses or cattle can be raised with less expense; dairy cows can be fed more cheaply; the markets for farm products average somewhat better; a desirable climate goes with it. Why, then, is the land not worth at least as much as the highest priced farm land in Ontario, Quebec, Ohio, Iowa, Indiana, Illinois, or any other place where mixed farming is carried on? It is certainly worth vastly more than in any portion of the West where climatic conditions, being less favorable to the wintering of live stock and the production of rich pasture and cheap fodder crops, tend to the production of grain crops as the farmer's sole activity. It is equally certain that Central Alberta land has as yet attained to only a fraction of its intrinsic or ultimate value.

**Land Worth  
More**

**Produces  
More**

**Now too  
Cheap**

### What You Can Buy It For

It is also a practical certainty that never again will Central Alberta land be bought at the prices for which it can be obtained to-day. Better get in now.

**Will be  
Higher**

Prices of land are subject to very wide variation, depending on many varying conditions, such as the nature of the individual land, its location and proximity to some town, the degree of development in the neighborhood and the character of the settlement, and other circumstances which vary in each case. It is consequently difficult to make any definite statement as to prices; but in a general way it may be said that wild land of good quality, within five or six miles

**Price  
of Land**



**Cheaper  
than Home-  
steading**

of a small country station, and within easy reach of the Edmonton market, may be bought at prices ranging anywhere from twelve to twenty-five dollars an acre. In some of the less developed districts, land of fair quality but a little further from railway facilities may be bought at much lower prices. There is land within sixty miles of Edmonton, and within ten or fifteen miles of railway service which could be bought at from six to ten dollars an acre. Close to Edmonton, that is to say, within five or ten miles of the city limits, considerably higher prices prevail, and from twenty-five to fifty dollars per acre would have to be paid for unimproved land.

**Every Con-  
venience**

Improved land, of course, brings somewhat higher prices, depending on the nature and value of the improvements. It must be remembered that in many cases these lands have every convenience in the way of good markets and means of reaching them, good schools



**Noontide on an Edmonton District Farm**

and churches, good neighbors, railway service, telephone service and rural mail delivery, and that the land itself is fully equal or superior, in actual intrinsic value, to the very best there is in older communities where land sells at anywhere from \$100 to \$300 an acre.

As long ago as 1910 the "Rural New Yorker," one of the best informed agricultural papers in the United States, said editorially:



"The man in Alberta will be as near the wheat or cattle market as he who lives in Kansas; yet the former can find land at \$20 even superior to that for which the latter must pay \$150."

**United  
States  
Opinion**

This condition will not long remain. As the value of Central Alberta land comes to be better known, and the advantages of the country are better understood, land prices will inevitably advance at least as rapidly as has been the case in the Central Western States. Better get in now while it is still cheap.

Reliable land men, usually with an accurate knowledge of the land they are offering, may be found in Edmonton and in nearby towns. Intending purchasers would be well advised to confine their dealings in land to agents of known standing and responsibility. When so desired the Edmonton Board of Trade will be glad to place enquirers in touch with reliable and responsible concerns who are represented on the membership of the Board of Trade.

**Caution**

### **Free Land**

Many enquiries are made as to where free land may be obtained. There is perhaps more wide-spread misconception respecting free land than in regard to almost any other feature connected with this country. There are in the Edmonton Land District alone many millions of acres of land available as free homesteads. This will be found to the south-west, west, north-west, north and north-east of Edmonton, at distances varying from 60 to 100 miles. In Northern Alberta, usually referred to as the Peace River Country, other millions of acres are available. Maps showing where free land is available may be obtained on application from any Canadian Government Agent in the United States; from the Department of the Interior, Ottawa; or from the Secretary of the Edmonton Board of Trade, Edmonton, Canada.

**Free Land**

Much of this free land consists of most excellent soil, and will some day be of high value. While there is necessarily much local variation in a country of such great extent, and it is consequently difficult to generalize, there are two outstanding facts which should be kept clearly in mind, to avoid disappointment:

**Cheaper  
to Buy**

**There is no free land of desirable quality near a railway, in either Central or Northern Alberta.**

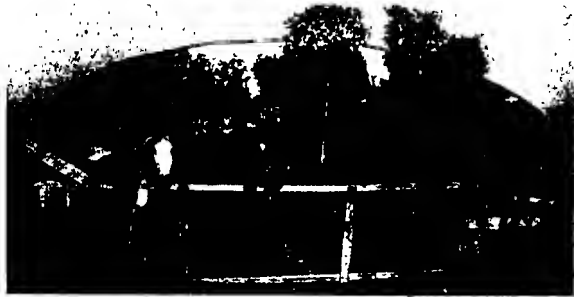
**There is no free land left, except in certain remote northern districts, that is clear, open prairie.**

**More  
Profitable  
to Buy**

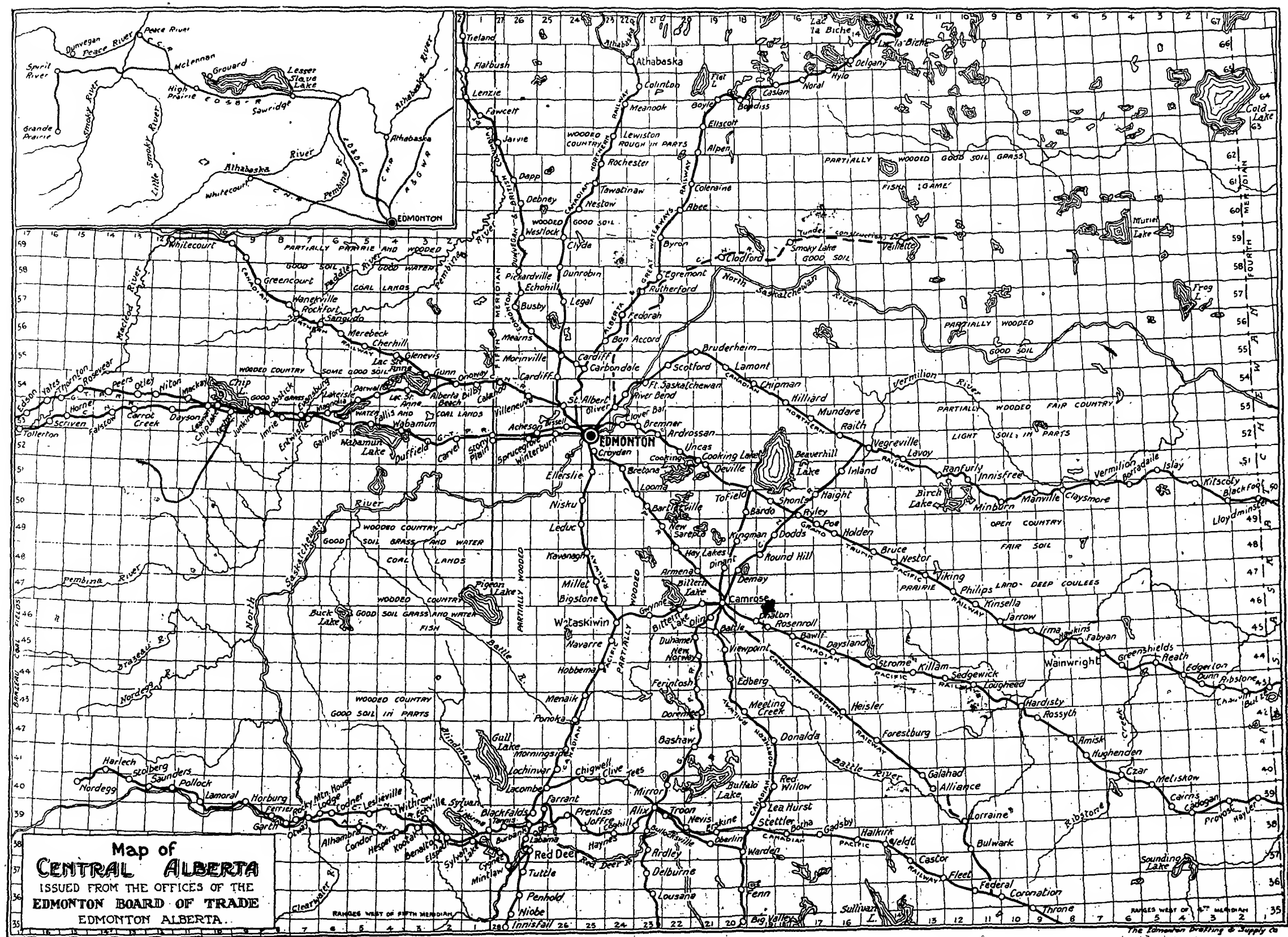
For these reasons it will be found cheaper in the end, very much more profitable, and in every way more desirable, to buy land in the older and more developed portion of Central Alberta, provided with means of transportation, established markets, and other conveniences, in preference to going into the districts where free land may be had, remote from markets and conveniences, to take up a homestead which will require more or less clearing and await development which may be a long time in arriving. Undoubtedly the man who buys his land in the settled country will at the end of five years be much further ahead than the man who goes back into the bush for free land.

**Nothing  
to Sell**

This statement is not made for the purpose of making a sale of land. The Edmonton Board of Trade is not in the land business, and has nothing to sell. It is simply desired that the incoming settler shall have correct information, that he may use his energy, capital and experience along lines likely to result most satisfactorily to himself and make his efforts of most value to Alberta.

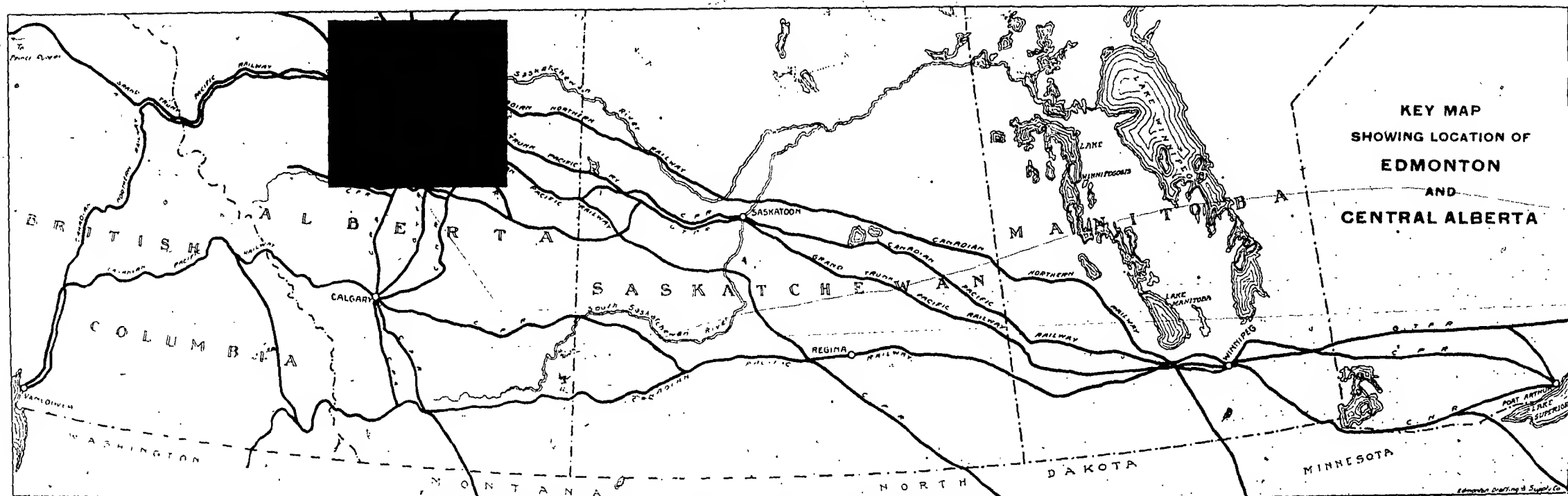


**The Edmonton Board of Trade will be glad to be of service to you. No charge of any kind. Write the Secretary for information. You are invited to call at the office, 209 Canadian Pacific Building, on arrival at Edmonton.**



The Edmonton Drafting & Supply Co.





KEY MAP  
SHOWING LOCATION OF  
EDMONTON  
AND  
CENTRAL ALBERTA

### SYNOPSIS OF HOMESTEAD REGULATIONS

The sole head of a family, or any male over eighteen years old, may homestead one quarter-section of any available Dominion land in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta or Peace River Block in British Columbia. Applicant must appear in person at the Dominion Lands Agency or Sub-Agency for the district. Entry by proxy may be made at any Dominion Lands Agency (but not Sub-Agency), on certain conditions.

An Agent may reserve one available quarter section as a homestead for a minor over seventeen years of age until he is eighteen, on certain conditions.

**WHERE ENTRY IS MADE.**—Application for homestead entry may be made by a person eligible under the provisions of "The Dominion Lands Act," either at the Land Agency for the district in which the land is situated, or at the office of Sub-Agent authorized to transact business in the district.

**DUTIES.**—Six months' residence upon the land and cultivation of at least thirty acres, of which at least twenty acres must be cropped. A homesteader may live within nine miles of his homestead on a farm of at least eighty acres, on certain conditions. A habitable house is required except where residence is performed in the vicinity.

The area of cultivation is subject to reduction in case of rough, scrubby or stony land. Live stock may be substituted for cultivation under certain conditions.

**WHEN TO BEGIN RESIDENCE.**—A homesteader is allowed six months from the date of his entry within which to perfect the same by taking possession of the land and beginning his residence duties in connection therewith. Any entry not so perfected within that period is liable to cancellation.

**PURCHASED HOMESTEAD.**—A settler who has exhausted his homestead right may take a purchased homestead in certain districts. Price, Three Dollars per acre.

**DUTIES.**—Six months' residence in each of three years; cultivation of fifty acres and erection of a home worth Three Hundred Dollars.

There is no land available for pre-emption in Central or Northern Alberta.

While there are millions of acres of land available for homesteading, attention is directed to the paragraphs in the accompanying pamphlet urging the advisability of buying land accessible to railways and markets in preference to going back for free land.

### CANADIAN CUSTOMS DUTIES

Settlers' effects, including wearing apparel, books, usual and reasonable household furniture and other household effects, instruments and tools of trade, occupation or employment, guns, musical instruments, domestic sewing-machines, typewriters, bicycles, carts, wagons and other highway vehicles, agricultural implements and live stock for the farm, not to include live stock or articles for sale or for use as a contractor's outfit, nor vehicles nor implements moved by mechanical power, nor machinery for use in any manufacturing establishment; all the foregoing, if actually owned by the settler for at least six months before his removal to Canada, and subject to regulations prescribed by the Minister of Customs, may be brought in free of duty provided that any dutiable articles as settlers' effects may not be entered unless brought by the settler on his first arrival, and shall not be sold or otherwise disposed of without payment of duty until after twelve months' use in Canada.

A settler is allowed 16 head of horses or cows, which may be brought into Canada as settlers' effects. Settlers proposing to bring in live stock should carefully observe the Canadian quarantine regulations.

Automobiles, traction engines, gasoline engines, and all implements or vehicles moved by mechanical power, are dutiable.

Numerous Ports of Entry and sub-ports are located in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, to which goods may be forwarded in bond. When you have decided upon your route of travel, ascertain from the nearest Canadian Government Agent the most convenient Port of Entry at which you may enter your effects.

Rates of duty on general merchandise, or on property not entitled to free entry as settlers' effects, can be learned at any Port of Entry, or direct from the Department of Customs, Ottawa, Canada.

### RAILWAY RATES

Specially low rates for settlers' effects shipped in carload lots are in effect on Canadian Railways. This would include practically all the effects mentioned under the head of customs duty, except that only ten head of live stock is permitted in such a car. Carload rates to Edmonton from a few typical points for a car of 24,000 lbs. are as follows:

Montreal	.....	\$136.80	Omaha, Neb.	.....	\$124.80
Prescott, Ont.	.....	136.80	Denver, Col.	.....	194.90
Windsor, Ont.	.....	136.80	Helena, Mont.	.....	102.60
Chicago	.....	108.00	Great Falls, Mont.	.....	88.20
St. Paul	.....	60.00	Spokane, Wash.	.....	126.40
Kansas City, Mo.	.....	127.20	Portland, Ore.	.....	161.60

The rates from the following points are for carload of 20,000 lbs.:

Newport, Vt. ...\$243.00      Buffalo, N.Y. ...\$231.00

Special homeseekers' round-trip rates from some of the principal U. S. points to Edmonton are:

Chicago	.....	\$46.50	Council Bluffs, Iowa	.....	\$46.50
Peoria, Ill.	.....	47.50	Omaha	.....	46.50
St. Louis	.....	50.50	Sioux City, Iowa	.....	46.50
Kansas City	.....	47.50	St. Paul & Minneapolis	.....	39.50

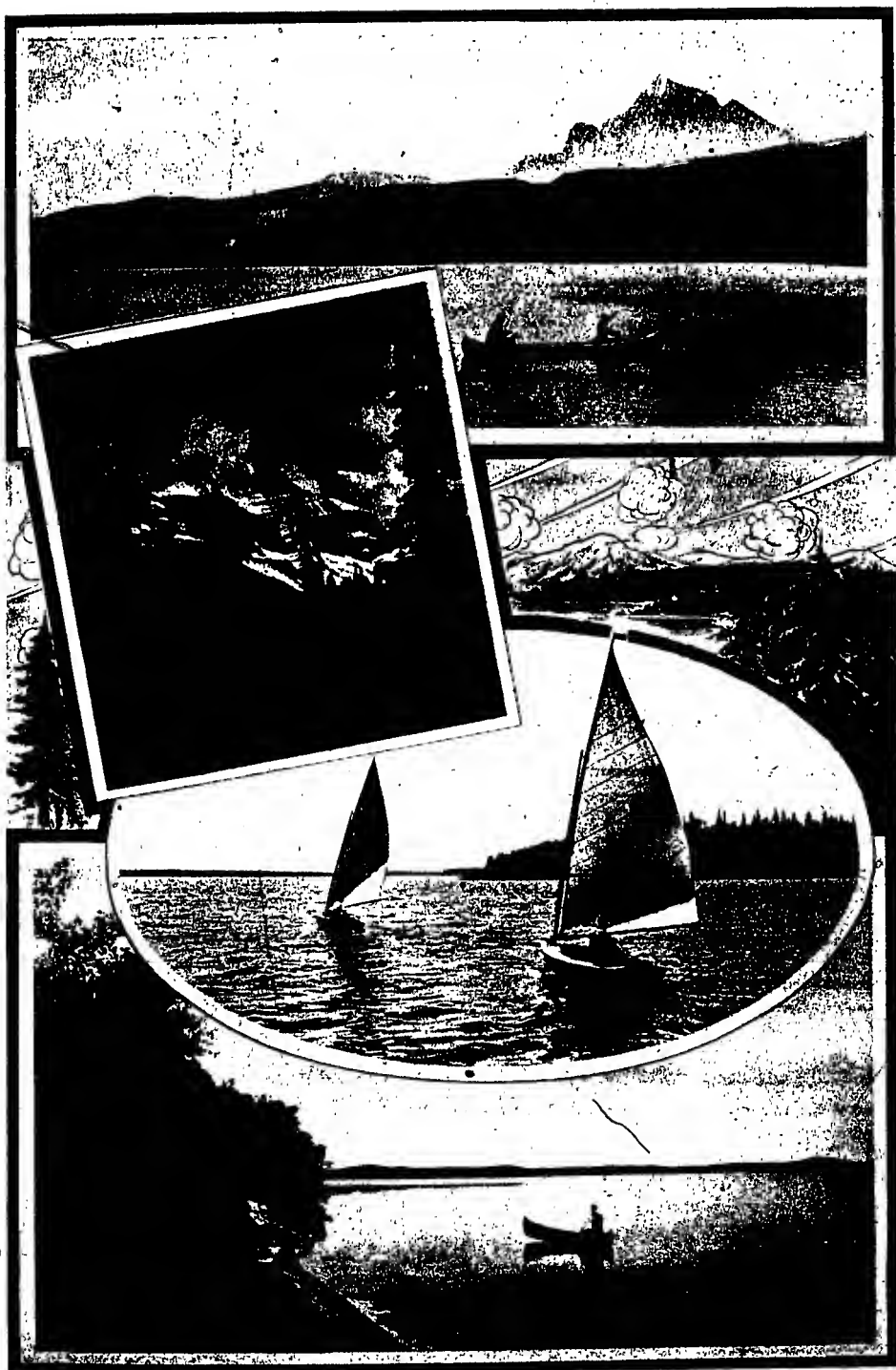
One-way settlers' fare: Montreal, \$24.50; New York via Montreal, \$35.40; Boston via Montreal, \$33.75; Buffalo, \$27.60; Windsor, Ont., \$24.50.

Rates and conditions may change without notice. Consult any Canadian railway agency in U. S., or the nearest Canadian Government Agent before starting for Alberta.

### CANADIAN GOVERNMENT AGENTS IN U. S.

California	.....	Gilbert Roche, Canadian Government Office, San Francisco.
Illinois	.....	C. J. Broughton, Room 412, 112 W. Adams St., Chicago.
Indiana	.....	J. M. MacLachlan, 215 Traction-Terminal Bldg., Indianapolis.
Iowa	.....	F. H. Hewitt, 5th Street, Des Moines.
Massachusetts	.....	Max A. Bowlby, 73 Tremont Street, Boston.
Maine	.....	L. N. Asselin, Biddeford.
Michigan	.....	M. V. MacInnis, 176 Jefferson Ave., Detroit.
Michigan	.....	C. A. Laurier, Marquette.
Minnesota	.....	R. A. Garrett, 311 Jackson Street, St. Paul.
Minnesota	.....	J. C. Koehn, Mountain Lake.
Missouri	.....	Geo. A. Cook, 2012 Main Street, Kansas City.
Montana	.....	J. L. Porte, Room 6, Dunn Block, Great Falls.
Nebraska	.....	W. V. Bennett, 200 Bee Building, Omaha.
New Haven	.....	J. E. LaForce, 1139 Elm Street, Manchester.
New York	.....	O. G. Routledge, 310 E. Genesee St., Syracuse.
North Dakota	.....	W. E. Black, Clifford Block, Grand Forks.
Ohio	.....	W. S. Nethery, 82 Interurban Station, Columbus.
Pennsylvania	.....	F. A. Harrison, 200 North 2nd St., Harrisburg.
South Dakota	.....	M. J. Johnstone, Drawer 197, Watertown.
Washington	.....	J. N. Grieve, Cor. 1st and Post Streets, Spokane.
Wisconsin	.....	Geo. A. Hall, 123 Second Street, Milwaukee.

Attention is directed to the caution in the accompanying pamphlet as to the desirability of settlers thinking of purchasing land, dealing only with agents who are reliable and responsible.



Mount Robson, Jasper Pass

— Yellowhead Lake and Mt. Fitzwilliam  
Cooking Lake, near Edmonton

On Buffalo Lake, near Mirror

Some Central Alberta Playgrounds

THE  
**EDMONTON DISTRICT**  
CENTRAL ALBERTA

Canada's Richest Mixed Farming Country



Farm Home of Mr. J. C. C. Bremner,  
An Early Pioneer of the Edmonton District

Western Canada is prosperous, and the most prosperous people in Western Canada are the 200,000 farmers of Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Land worth \$15 to \$30 an acre is producing crops worth \$40 to \$75 per acre.

—Nor'-West Farmer, Winnipeg, Man.

The province which has the best crop story to tell is Alberta. . . . In yield per acre Alberta this year (1917), as in 1915 and 1916, is supreme.

—Toronto Globe.

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Attention is directed to the caution on page 43 of this pamphlet as to the advisability of dealing only with reputable and responsible agents when considering the purchase of land